

## CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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# PRESS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

### WHALE TAIL LICENSE PLATES ARE STILL AFLOAT

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San Francisco—The California Coastal Commission's Whale Tail specialty plates will remain available for purchase, despite artist Robert Wyland's demand that the state immediately stop using his image. Sale of the specialty license plates fund coastal education and marine protection programs throughout the state.

"We are shocked and saddened by this dispute," said Coastal Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas. "The Commission is moving forward with a new design, but it is important for California motorists to know that the program will continue in the meantime. People can still order Whale Tail license plates, and keep the ones they have. Their fees will continue to fund the Whale Tail Grant Program and other worthwhile environmental protection programs, and non-profits and public agencies can still apply for those funds."

Revenues from plate sales and renewals are divided every year by the Legislature between the Coastal Commission, the Coastal Conservancy and the Resources Agency.

Douglas said he has been assured that existing plates will not be recalled, and that a new image can be substituted for Wyland's whale tail without any disruption of the current program or DMV procedures.